

# **Lemhi County Wildland Fire Hazard, Risk and Mitigation Plan For the Idaho Mitigation Strategy**



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Lemhi County covers 4,579 square miles, located in central Idaho bordering Montana along the Continental Divide. The federal government owns 91% of the county. As of 2003 censuses ,Lemhi County population was 7806, Salmon and Leadore are the two cities in the county; Salmon being the county seat with a population of 3038, Leadore with the population of 100. The remaining residents of Lemhi County reside in urban interface and subdivision areas.

## Identification of Risk Areas

**The Planning Committee identified areas of the county that are vulnerable to the threat of wildland fire based on; past fire occurrence, wildland fuel conditions, number of people affected and local fire suppression effectiveness. A simple matrix was used to evaluate the criteria.**

|                             |                        |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| * Past fire occurrence      | 1-5 lowest to greatest |
| * Wildland fuel conditions  | 1-5 lowest to greatest |
| * Number of people affected | 1-5 lowest to greatest |
| * Local fire suppression    | 1-5 greatest to lowest |

A map was developed to include the outline of areas. Color coordination has been added to the map for easy identification of areas and their levels of risk. Red high, Yellow moderate and Green low.

### ***Lemhi County areas at risk:***

Color code:      1-9 Green (low)      10-12 Yellow (moderate)      13 up Red (high)

| Area                                       | Fire<br>Occurrence | Fuel<br>Load | Resident<br>population | Fire<br>protection | Total |        |
|--|--------------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------|-------|--------|
| Birch Creek                                | 1                  | 5            | 1                      | 3                  | 7     | Green  |
| Gilmore Summit to Tex Creek                | 2                  | 3            | 2                      | 2                  | 9     | Green  |
| Tex Creek to Hayden Creek                  | 2                  | 3            | 3                      | 1                  | 9     | Green  |
| Hayden Creek Drainage                      | 3                  | 3            | 3                      | 2                  | 11    | Yellow |
| Hayden Creek/Baker                         | 2                  | 2            | 3                      | 2                  | 9     | Green  |
| Salmon City 7 mile radius                  | 3                  | 2            | 4                      | 1                  | 10    | Yellow |
| Jessy Creek Drainage City Salmon           | 3                  | 5            | 5                      | 1                  | 14    | Red    |
| Sunset Heights subdivision                 | 3                  | 2            | 4                      | 2                  | 11    | Yellow |
| Williams Creek drainage- Lake Creek        | 2                  | 3            | 3                      | 2                  | 10    | Yellow |
| Williams Lake Recreational /Residential    | 3                  | 5            | 4                      | 3                  | 15    | Red    |
| Shoup Bridge Hwy 93 S- 12 mile Hwy 93 S    | 2                  | 3            | 2                      | 2                  | 9     | Green  |
| 12 Mile Hwy 93 S- Ellis                    | 2                  | 2            | 1                      | 4                  | 9     | Green  |
| Elk Bend Proper                            | 2                  | 2            | 4                      | 4                  | 12    | Yellow |
| Pahsimeroi                                 | 3                  | 2            | 2                      | 3                  | 10    | Yellow |
| Carman Creek Hwy 93N—Tower Creek Hwy 93 N  | 3                  | 3            | 4                      | 2                  | 12    | Yellow |
| Tower Creek Drainage-Kriley Gulch          | 4                  | 3            | 4                      | 3                  | 14    | Red    |
| 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Creek Drainage     | 3                  | 4            | 3                      | 2                  | 13    | Red    |
| Kriley Gultch Hwy 93N-Sheep Creek Hwy 93 N | 4                  | 4            | 3                      | 2                  | 13    | Red    |
| Sheep Creek Drainage                       | 2                  | 5            | 5                      | 5                  | 17    | Red    |
| Sheep Creek Hwy 93N- Lost Trail Hwy 93 N   | 3                  | 5            | 2                      | 4                  | 14    | Red    |
| Gibbonsville /Dahlonga Creek               | 3                  | 5            | 4                      | 2                  | 14    | Red    |
| North Fork / Horse Creek                   | 5                  | 5            | 4                      | 5                  | 19    | Red    |
| Panther Creek Drainage                     | 5                  | 5            | 2                      | 5                  | 17    | Red    |
|  |                    |              |                        |                    |       |        |
|  |                    |              |                        |                    |       |        |

**MITIGATION STRATEGIES:**

**The following mitigation strategies were identified and developed by the committee. Action for each identified strategy are categorized, and each category has areas from high to low priority;**

| <b><i>Education</i></b>   | <b><i>Preparedness/ Response</i></b>  | <b><i>Fuels Reduction</i></b>  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>#1</b> Wild Land fire suppression training for Lemhi County's VFD</p> <p><b>#1. Emphasize preservation of wildland urban interface fire using proactive, cooperative approach with incentive programs</b></p>         | <p><b>#1.</b> Hire Project coordinator.</p> <p><b>#1.</b>Development of county wide evacuation plan.</p> <p><b>#1.</b>Active recruitment and training for fire personnel in Elk Bend/Williams Lake area.</p> <p><b>#1.</b> Home evaluations High/Moderate risk areas.</p> <p><b>#1. Assure that County Fire Departments have adequate equipment to safely and efficiently suppress fires</b></p> <p><b>#1. Assist in economic development/ maintenance of small diameter wood utilization in Lemhi County.(2005 update)</b></p>                       | <p><b>#1.</b>Fuels reduction projects on private properties.</p> <p><b>#1</b> Hazardous fuel treatment on Bureau of Land Management lands adjacent to Urban Interface areas.</p> <p><b>#1.</b> Hazardous fuel treatment on Forest Service lands adjacent to high and moderate risk urban interface areas.</p>    |
| <p><b>#2.</b> Conduct County Fire Wise workshops.</p> <p><b>#2. Subdivision home site education on creating survivable/defendable space, and wildfire education.</b></p>  | <p><b>#2.</b> Identification of fuels reduction projects, high/moderate risk areas.</p> <p><b>#2.</b> Additional PPE for Williams Lake VFD</p> <p><b>#2.</b> Additional PPE for Elk Bend VFD</p>  | <p><b>#2.Ensure that the land development ordinance and building code support the mitigation of wildland urban interface fire danger.</b></p> <p><b>#2</b> Improve accessibility routes in Williams Lake, Sheep Creek, and Kriley Gulch areas.</p> <p><b>#2.</b>Community cleanup of the Williams Lake area.</p> |
| <p><b>#3.</b> Provide education for county developers /contractor/realtors to implement defendable space criteria, and utilization of fire resistant material in new constructions of buildings in the interface areas.</p> | <p><b>#3. Develop county wide road and street systems that proves for efficient fire fighting and clear evacuation routs.</b></p> <p><b>#3.</b>Explore the economic feasibility of a small diameter wood utilization business in Lemhi County</p> <p><b>#3.</b>Encouragement of utility companies to reduce ignition fuels and windfall hazards in power line corridors and install underground lines in new subdivisions when replacing older lines.</p> <p><b>#3</b> Institute a utilization plan for the compacted tires from county landfill.</p> | <p><b>3#</b> GIS Mapping of private and interface properties</p>   |